GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2354
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016
Maitree Radio
Sathyabama Smt. V.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to launch Maitree radio with focus on Bangladesh;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether there has been proposal to launch similar radio waves for the benefit of the people of other southern languages; and
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
{COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) & (b) Prasar Bharati has launched an exclusive Bangla channel under the caption "Akashvani Maitree" on 23rd August, 2016 for audiences in Bangladesh to foster the ties of friendship and mutual co-operation between India and Bangladesh. This is one of the language services of the External Services Division of All India Radio.

(c) & (d) All India Radio already has language services in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam as part of the bouquet of services offered to Indian diaspora in South Asia, Mauritius, East Africa, West Asia etc. That is apart from huge network of stations of AIR in all South Indian states serving the people as per their mother tongue, their culture, heritage etc.

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